

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 L-03 NEA-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 CAB-09

FAA-00 DOTE-00 OIC-04 COME-00 /127 R

66650

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L: MR. WILLIS NEA: MR. DAVIES (PHONE)

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O 272315Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170651

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS AND SUBJECT LINE OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICAO, ETRN, IS, LE

SUBJ: ICAO AIR SECURITY CONFERENCE: ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE

REFS: (A) ROME 8720 AND (B) 8745

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE APPROACH ISRAEL INTENDS TO TAKE TO ROME CONFERENCE IS YET PLAIN FROM PRESS HANDLING OF GOI AUGUST 26 PRESS BULLETIN (TEL AVIV 6730). APPROACH ISRAEL IS TAKING IN CAPITALS APPARENTLY WAS DEVELOPED PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR KEATING'S CALL ON FORNMIN EBAN AUGUST 25. FOR EXAMPLE, PERES LETTER CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT TODAY (REPORTED SEPTTEL), APPARENTLY AS PART OF THESE CONSULTATIONS, APPEARS TO US TO REPRESENT APPROACH DEVELOPED
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BEFORE ACCOUNT COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN OF US VIEWS CONVEYED

TO EBAN AUGUST 25 AND CONSIDERED BY CABINET AUGUST 26.

2. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE TACTICAL ERROR FOR ISRAEL AT ROME CONFERENCE TO (A) ARGUE COMPARABILITY OF AUGUST IO INCIDENT WITH EARLIER FRENCH, ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN INCIDENTS, OR (B) DWELL ON ARAB TERRORISM RECORD AS LEGITIMATIZING ISRAELI UNILATERAL ACT.

3. AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE SHOULD SEEK FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH NAJAR APPROACH ISRAEL INTENDS TO TAKE AT ROME, AND EXPRESS OUR CONCERN (A) THAT ARGUMENT OF COMPARABILITY WITH EARLIER INCIDENTS MIGHT SIMPLY SERVE TO POINT UP DISTINCTION BETWEEN ACTION BY A STATE IN ITS OWN AIRSPACE AND VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGN AIRSPACE OF ANOTHER, AND (B) THAT EXTENSIVE RAKING OVER OF RECORD OF ARAB TERRORISM WOULD NOT SERVE OBJECTIVE (WHICH WE PRESUME ISRAEL SHARES OF TURNING FOCUS OF MEETING FORWARD TO IMPROVE PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AIR LAW.

4. FOR TEL AVIV. EMBASSY MAY AT ITS DISCRETION DRAW ON FOREGOING IN FURTHER CONTACTS WITH GOI.

5. IN VIEW OF VIEWS ALREADY IMPARTED TO ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON TODAY, AND TIGHT TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH WE MUST NOW OPERATE, APPROACH IN ROME, REINFORCED IF OPPORTUNE BY FURTHER CONTACTS IN TEL AVIV, WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN FURTHER DEMARCHE HERE. RUSH

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